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**Health Science Education Licensure Policy & Rule Revision**

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**The Background:**

In response to requests from local school systems, this item will adjust the qualifications of health science teachers to accommodate a need for a larger pool of qualified applicants to teach in the field of health science education.

Currently, teachers of health science education are required to have completed three years of successful employment experience in a related health occupation within the seven years prior to initial employment as a teacher. The proposed revisions would change this requirement to be one year of employment, obtained through either full-time or part-time status, within the past five years prior to teaching.

The adjustment in the requirements will be made in three locations: the employment standards in *Rules, Regulations, and Minimum Standards of the State Board of Education*; the stipulation of qualifications in *Rules, Regulations, and Minimum Standards*; and the State Board of Education *Teacher Licensure Standards*, which includes guidelines for program implementation.

The employment standards are found in *Rules, Regulations*, 0520-01-02-.03(9)(c). Rule 0520-02-04-.13(1) stipulates some of the requirements for apprentice occupational education license teachers in the field of Health Science Education.

**The Recommendation:**

The Department of Education recommends adoption of the standards and rule on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.

## **Rule**

### **Employment Standard: Rule 0520-01-02-.03(9)(c)**

The revised employment standard for Health Sciences Education, 0520-01-02-.03(9)(c), would read as follows:

#### **Proposed Rule**

A teacher of health science education shall have completed one (1) year of successful employment experience, obtained through full-time or part-time status, within the past five (5) years in a related health occupation prior to teaching.

#### **Current Rule**

A teacher of health science education shall have completed three (3) years of successful employment experience as a registered nurse or in an allied health occupation within the seven (7) years prior to initial employment as a teacher.

### **Requirements for License: Rule 0520-02-02-.13(1)(a)1**

#### **Proposed Rule**

The revised requirements for the Occupational Education License Health Science Education, 0520-02-02-.13(1)(a)1, would read as follows.

- (i) The secondary health science teacher shall have completed one (1) year of successful employment, obtained through full-time or part-time status, within the past five (5) years in a related health occupation prior to teaching.
- (ii) Health science teachers must hold an associate or higher degree in a health-related area and hold current licensure registration or certification in an allied health occupation or current licensure as a registered nurse in Tennessee. Teachers must successfully complete a comprehensive test administered or accepted by the Tennessee Health Related Boards.

#### **Current Rule 0520-02-02-.13(1)(a)1**

Note: There are two versions in this section. The first version is the current rule as of March 15, 2012. The second version is the proposed rule that was approved on second reading by the State Board and which is scheduled on March 26, 2012, for review at a Joint Government Operations Rule Review meeting.

#### **Current Rule:**

- (i) The secondary health science teacher shall have completed three years of successful employment within the past five (5) years in a related health occupation prior to teaching.
- (ii) Health science teachers must hold an associate or higher degree in a health-related area and hold current licensure registration or certification in an allied

health occupation or current licensure as a registered nurse in Tennessee. Teachers must successfully complete a comprehensive test administered or accepted by the Tennessee Health Related Boards.

*Proposed Rule on Requirements for the Occupational Education License for Health Science Education as approved by the State Board of Education on final reading in October 2011, pending legislative review.*

The revised requirements for Health Sciences Education, 0520-02-02-.13(1)(a)1., would read as follows:

- (i) The health science education teacher must hold an associate or higher degree that is related to their health care license. The license, registration or certification must be in an allied health occupation, or as a registered nurse, or in an appropriate medical profession in Tennessee that can be verified by Tennessee Department of Health Licensure or a national license accreditation agency. (EX: Radiological Technologist, Nuclear Medicine, etc.)
- (ii) Applicant shall have completed three years of full-time successful employment within the past five years in a health care clinical setting having a current active health care license. (Ex: hospital, long-term care facility, rehabilitation or athletic training facility, dental or medical office, home health, day surgery center, etc.)

## **Policy**

The policy change will be made to the Tennessee Teacher Licensure Standards: Health Science Education Licensure (Endorsement in Health Science Education 9-12). The change will begin with the section currently entitled “Guidelines” in the Policy. The title “Guidelines” is being changed to “Program Implementation Standards” in order to be consistent with other licensure standards documents. The only content change is to item IV in the Program Implementation Standards.

Proposed Policy:

### **Program Implementation Standards**

IV. Applicant shall have completed one year of full-time or part-time successful employment within the past five years in a related health occupation in a health care clinical setting having a current active health care license. (EX: hospital, long-term care facility, rehabilitation or athletic training facility, dental or medical office, home health, day surgery center, etc.)

Current Policy:

### **Guidelines**

IV. Applicant shall have completed three years of full-time successful employment within the past five years in a health care clinical setting having a current active health care license. (EX: hospital, long-term care facility, rehabilitation or athletic training facility, dental or medical office, home health, day surgery center, etc.)